

REMARKS

This Response is further submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 29, 2009. Claims 1, 5, 6, 14, 17, and 26 are amended herein. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. Please charge deposit account number 02-1818 for any fees due in association with this Response.

The Office Action rejected Claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant has clarified these claims and it is respectfully submitted that such rejections have been overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 to 15, 17 to 22, and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Lucero* (U.S. Patent 6,019,283). Applicant disagreed and filed a Notice of Appeal and a Pre-appeal Brief Request for Review on April 29, 2009. On May 18, 2009, while interviewing another application with the Examiner, Applicant inquired about the status of the Review. The Examiner indicated that the Review had taken place and this application was going to proceed to the Board. The Examiner offered to have a personal interview the next day on May 19, 2009. The personal interview was conducted on May 19, 2009.

During the interview, Applicant's representatives generally discussed that:

- (a) each of the independent claims recites two independent processors and/or control units;
- (b) in various embodiments one of the processors/controllers is a game processor (e.g., to provide a slot machine game), and the other processor/controller is an electronic funds transfer (EFT) unit (e.g., to communicate with an outside financial institution);
- (c) these two processors/controllers operate without direct communication there between; and
- (d) that *Lucero* does not teach sending a response to the first processor without said response being communicated through the second processor.

Regarding this last argument, the Examiner indicated that such distinction was not clearly in the claims and that such distinction would help in overcoming the rejection based on *Lucero*. Accordingly, while Applicant believes that the previous claims clearly

distinguish over *Lucero*, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended the claims to include this distinction. More specifically,

Claim 1 now recites:

a payment device configured to operate with the game processor, the payment device configured to operate to provide a monetary amount to a player after a card is inserted into the card reader and after receiving an approval for the electronic fund transfer request from a remote fund repository that communicates with the EFT controller via a banking network and without said approval being communicated from the EFT controller to the game processor;

Claim 14 now recites

a second processor supported by the housing and configured to cause the ticket printer to print a ticket with the requested amount if the response is an approval, the second processor configured to operate without direct communication between the first processor and the second processor and without said response being communicated from the first processor to the second processor;

Claim 17 now recites:

a second network that is configured to communicate with the game processor of the gaming device to credit the player a monetary amount if the response from the remote fund repository is an approval, the second network being different than the first network, the game processor configured to operate without direct communication between the EFT control unit and the game processor and without said response being communicated from the EFT control unit to the game processor; and

Claim 26 now recites:

receiving, at a second processor of the gaming device, a response from the remote fund repository without direct communication between the first processor and the second processor and without said response being communicated from the first processor to the second processor.

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that each of the pending independent claims, as well as all claims that depend from those independent claims, are each patentably distinguished from *Lucero*. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Additionally, it is noted that certain of the claims have been otherwise clarified.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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